

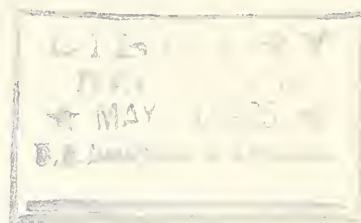
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THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

May 1, 1925.



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* Plans of work in horticulture being submitted *

* by the State Extension Specialists do not show any *

* marked departure in the lines of work from those of *

* the past two or three years. This indicates that the *

* work is now being arranged on a definite, long period *

* basis. The next important step will be a closer *

* correlation of the plans of work for groups of States *

* on both a regional and a commodity basis. *

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Office of Horticultural Investigations
and Extension Service Cooperating
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

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Plans of Work.

The 1925 plans of work which are now coming to the office do not show the improvement we hoped for from our suggestions last year in the "Extension Horticulturist." They all lack one or more of the essential items which make up a complete plan of work as follows:

1. A clear statement of the problems needing attention.
2. The methods to be used in attacking these problems.
3. Cooperating parties and duties of each.
4. The goals to be attained.
5. Calendar of operations showing the work to be done each month
6. Means of publicity.
7. Maps showing where work will be done.

Some of the plans of work are in narrative form and give only a general idea of what is to be done, others give an abundance of detail. One point noted is that the lines of work are being put on a long time basis.

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Activities of State Specialists.

In response to our request, we have received letters from a number of the State workers which include notes on their work. These should be of interest to the men who are conducting similar work in other States.

Pennsylvania

Mr. W. B. Nissley, Specialist in Veg. Gardening.

State College, Pa., April 7, 1925.

"I had hoped to have a chance to confer with Mr. Mason our garden specialist before answering your letter, but he has been in the field since February 22nd. The vegetable extension work for this year has grown tremendously. We are conducting over one hundred community farm demonstration gardens with which you are familiar. Last year, Mr. Mason had fourteen. These are located in 20 different counties making an average of about 5 to a county. Quite a number of requests for demonstration farm gardens had to be turned down this year on account of our not being able to handle them.

The demand for better seed, and the conducting of strain and variety demonstrations has also increased 100 per cent and we are including more kinds of vegetables than in the past. We are now working with early and late cabbage, tomatoes, spinach, colery, sweet corn, asparagus and beans. There will be close to 125 demonstrations on which records are being kept. In addition we have distributed to growers 2,400 samples of seeds of superior merit for comparison with the strains they are growing.

A vegetable growers' association was formed in Monroe County to supply fresh home-grown vegetables to the Pocono Mountains summer resorts. Last year these resorts spent about \$150,000 for produce from outside the county and it is the aim to supply a part of the requirements of the resorts from the farms of the county.

One of the greatest needs of the vegetable grower or farmer who produces some vegetables for the smaller nearby markets is proper equipment. This is especially true in the northern counties where the season is rather short and we have supervised the building of several small 9 by 12 foot sash greenhouses in which the growers can raise their own early plants. We hope this fall to build a considerable number of these sash houses as demonstrations for next year in the various communities. This is the first year that we have had to turn down requests for demonstration work but are glad to realize that the general public is coming to appreciate the possibilities of vegetable growing in this State. We shall be glad to see you at almost any time during May or June. Our busy period of winter meetings is just over and the remainder of the year will be largely devoted to caring for the projects that have been started this spring."

Vegetable Extension Work in Massachusetts
Prof. Ray M. Koon,
Vegetable Extension Specialist.

"The vegetable growing industry in Massachusetts is concentrated in the eastern counties. For this reason the State Agricultural Experiment Station maintains a sub-station at Waltham, in the eastern part of the state. The purpose of this Market Garden Field Station, as it is called, is to serve Massachusetts agriculture, especially the producers of vegetable crops. Up to the present time the activities of the Station have been limited to research and extension in vegetables.

The facilities consist of an area of 60 acres, offices, laboratories, and every means for prosecuting the work.

Experimental and extension work are linked up very closely together. The Head of the Department of Vegetable Gardening at Amherst, the Director of the Extension Service, and the Director of the Experiment Station are responsible for the correlation of subject matter, extension work and research projects, respectively. The executive in charge of the Station also functions as Extension Specialist in Vegetable Gardening. As the Station serves as a clearing house for information, this appears to be a very satisfactory arrangement.

As the specialist works throughout the state he has every opportunity to discover the problems confronting the market gardeners. These problems are brought to the attention of the staff at the Field Station for investigation. The results of these investigations are disseminated through the available avenues, principally by means of the agricultural agents in the various counties.

Vegetable extension projects are about equally divided between greenhouse and outdoor practices. The troubles confronting greenhouse growers are no doubt essentially the same as in other states. The spider, mite, and nematode command first attention because of their prevalence and injury. Linseed oil emulsion developed by the Massachusetts Agricultural College has not been generally accepted as a control for spider mite because when specific instructions as to manufacture and application are not adhered to its use is attended by foliage injury. Steam or hot water sterilization is a regular

annual practice against nematodes but is expensive and unsatisfactory. Some experiments with calcium cyanide as an exterminant for this pest will be conducted this year.

The most conspicuous project undertaken this year in which all vegetable producers are interested is that of better grading. The Massachusetts standard produce box in which practically all vegetables are marketed will facilitate greatly. The State Bureau of Markets is cooperating with the Extension Service in this endeavor. The plan will first be tried out by the Boston Market Gardeners Association, and if successful will be extended statewide. Grades for five vegetables have been drawn up and grades for other vegetables will be defined as necessary. An advertising campaign for the consumption of locally grown produce will be an integral part of the project.

The grades are modifications of the United States Standards to suit local conditions:

Vita Vita Vegetables.

The principle which governs these grades requires that the contents of the pack shall be the same from top to bottom.

CUCUMBERS - VITA VIGA GRADE NO. 1 shall consist of cucumbers which are uniform in size and shape, fresh, firm, of good color and are practically free from blemishes and imperfections. The minimum size shall be 6 inches.

FIELD TOMATOES - VITA VIGA GRADE NO.1 shall consist of tomatoes of similar varietal characteristics, which are of an even degree of ripeness, but not overripe or soft; well formed, smooth, and practically free from blemishes and imperfections. The minimum size shall be 2 inches.

FIELD LETTUCE - VITA VIGA GRADE NO. 1 shall consist of heads of lettuce of uniform size and of similar varietal characteristics which are fresh, well trimmed, firm, which are not decayed, split or burst, and which are free from seed stems, and doubles, and from damage caused by dirt, wilting, freezing, tip burn, disease, insects, or other imperfections. The minimum weight shall be 8 ounces.

CELERY - VITA VIGA GRADE NO. 1 shall consist of cleanly washed, well trimmed stalks of celery, of similar varietal characteristics, of good heart and which are well blanched, not pithy, and which are practically free from blemishes and imperfections. A uniformly sized bunch shall prevail throughout the box.

CUT-OFF CARROTS - VITA VIGA GRADE NO. 1 shall consist of carrots of uniform size and shape, which are firm, smooth, clean and practically free from blemishes and imperfections. Minimum size 1-1/4 inch in diameter. Maximum size 2-1/4 inches in diameter."



Annual Potato Tour in Louisiana

Prof. G. L. Tiebout,

Baton Rouge, April 7, 1925.

"If you are interested in Triumph Irish potatoes grown from certified seed you cannot afford to miss our Third Annual Potato Tour, April 13 to 18, 1925. Kindly read the attached program and join us in helping to promote your industry" Then follows a program covering a five-day trip with field inspections, luncheons and meetings during which certified Triumph seed potatoes are featured. Sources of seed are North Dakota, Wisconsin, Montana and Nebraska.

Increasing Potato Yields - Missouri.

E. M. Page

Circular 163 - March 1925.

"Certified seed potatoes, seed treatment and fertilizer, when used together, have doubled the yield and improved the quality of potatoes for many Missouri growers and have given profitable increases wherever used. The value of these practices have been shown throughout the State during the last few years in a series of demonstration fields conducted by interested farmers in cooperation with the Extension Service of the Missouri College of Agriculture. Records have been kept as to the yield of these fields. The results, together with a brief outline of the methods used and recommended, are presented in the summaries. The complete records for 1924 also appear in this circular.

In 1924 the 32 demonstrations in 12 Missouri counties showed an average increase in yield of 62.9 bushels per acre for the certified seed over common seed of all sources. Even in the 14 demonstrations where supposedly good uncertified northern seed was used as the check there was an advantage of 44 bushels per acre in favor of the genuine northern grown, state inspected and certified seed potatoes."

Vegetable Varieties for North Dakota

by A. F. Yeager,

Bulletin 187, February, 1925.

"In a new state where new conditions must be met, one of the first steps necessary is to determine the value of those things which have been developed elsewhere. While vegetables as a whole do well here, some are better adapted than others. A few are hardly worth growing; some are valuable only when proper varieties are grown; while others are perfectly at home. Knowing this, it is nevertheless hard to plan a garden and select varieties from a seed catalog. In recent years more than 750 varieties of vegetables have been grown at the North Dakota Experiment Station in order that reliable information on this subject might be secured.

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Fruit, Vegetable and Landscape Extension Literature Received
During April, 1925.

Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn

The Home Orchard in Alabama, Cir. 79, March, 1925.



Arkansas - University of, Fayetteville (Extension Division, Little Rock)
 Early Tomatoes. Ext. Cir. No. 195, February, 1925.
 Connecticut Agricultural College, Storrs
 Orchard Fertilization and Soil Management. Bul. No. 87, March, 1925.
 Florida - University of, Gainesville
 Satsuma Oranges in Northern and Western Florida. Bul. 41, March, 1925.
 Georgia State College of Agriculture, Athens
 An Agricultural Survey of Central Georgia. Bul. 304, February, 1925.
 Kentucky - University of - Lexington
 Canning Fruits and Vegetables. Cir. No. 180, March, 1925.
 Maryland - University of, College Park.
 More Tomatoes from Fewer Acres. Bul. No. 38, March, 1925.
 Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst
 Control of Vegetable Diseases by Seed Treatment. Ext. Leaflet No. 5.
 Pruning and Care of Shrubbery. Ext. Leaflet No. 7.
 The Treatment of Girdled Trees. Ext. Leaflet No. 8.
 Michigan State College of Agriculture and Applied Science - East Lansing
 Fertilizing the Mature Apple Orchard. Bul. No. 38, April, 1925.
 Orchard Grafting. Bul. No. 39, April, 1925.
 Pruning Black Raspberries. Bul. No. 40, April, 1925.
 Missouri - University of, Columbia.
 Increasing Potato Yields. Cir. 162, March, 1925.
 New Jersey State College of Agriculture, New Brunswick.
 Renovation of Old Apple Orchards. Ext. Bul. 39, February, 1925.
 Rhubarb Culture. Ext. Bul. 40, March, 1925.
 The Home Garden. Ext. Bul. 42, March, 1925.
 Horse Radish Culture. Ext. Bul. 43, March, 1925.
 The Growing of Cantaloupes. Ext. Bul. 44, March, 1925.
 North Carolina State College of Agriculture, Raleigh.
 Culture and Value of the Farm Home Garden. Ext. Cir. No. 150, Mch, 1925.
 Ohio State University, Columbus.
 About Wild Flowers. Ext. Bul. Vol. XX, No. 6, 1925.
 Potato Growing in Ohio. Ext. Bul. Vol. XX, No. 8, 1925.
 Grape Growing in Ohio. Ext. Bul. Vol. XX, No. 10, 1925.
 Oklahoma A. & M. College, Stillwater.
 Hot Beds and Cold Frames. Cir. No. 211, 1925.
 Early Cabbage, Cauliflower, Head Lettuce and Bermuda Onions.
 Cir. 212, December, 1924.
 Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis.
 The Farm Vegetable Garden. Ext. Bul. 382, March, 1925.
 South Carolina - Clemson Agricultural College, Clemson College.
 Marketing Grapes. Ext. Bul. 67, March, 1925.
 Marketing Irish Potatoes. Ext. Bul. 68, March, 1925.

Although we have on several occasions requested authors of extension bulletins to send us copies as issued, they fail to do so. The above list was secured from the library of the Office of Experiment Stations, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

C. P. Close, Extension Horticulturist.
 W. R. Beattie, Extension Horticulturist.

